

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 07025 191546Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 SAA-01 IO-13 AID-05 /095 W  
-----095315 201333Z /43

R 190959Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8230  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
AMEMBASSY DACCA  
AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE POUCH  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PK  
SUBJECT: NEW CABINET MOVES ON ELECTIONS

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD A-78 (B) ISLAMABAD 6980

1. SUMMARY: THE NEW FEDERAL CABINET HAS TAKEN SEVERAL CONCRETE STEPS TO PREPARE FOR ELECTIONS. AT THEIR JULY 16 MEETING, THE CABINET AMENDED A NUMBER OF EXISTING ELECTION LAWS TO ALLOW FOR SEPARATE ELECTORATES, AND THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE ENUMERATION OF NEW ELECTORAL ROLLS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. END SUMMARY.

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2. CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR (CMLA) GENERAL ZIA'S NEW CABINET MET FOR THE FIRST TIME JULY 16 AND TOOK SEVERAL STEPS TO SET IN MOTION THE PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS. THE CABINET DECIDED:

--TO HOLD THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION ON THE BASIS OF SEPARATE

ELECTORATES. THE CABINET'S PLAN IS TO HAVE A 218-MEMBER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WITH 200 SEATS FOR MUSLIMS (TO BE ELECTED IN SINGLE-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES), EIGHT FOR NON-MUSLIM MINORITIES (DIVIDED BY PROVINCE AND ELECTED AT-LARGE), AND TEN FOR WOMEN (ELECTED INDIRECTLY);

--TO ORDER THE PREPARATION OF FRESH ELECTORAL ROLLS BASED UPON SEPARATE ELECTORATES;

--TO ORDER A FRESH APPORTIONMENT OF CONSTITUENCIES.

3. PRESS JULY 19 NOTES THAT THE ENUMERATION OF THE NEW ELECTORAL ROLLS IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION, WHICH HAS BEEN EAGERLY AWAITING THE GREEN LIGHT FROM THE GOVERNMENT (REF A), HAS AUTHORIZED THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION COMMISSIONS TO DISTRIBUTE THE REQUIRED FORMS, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT TEACHERS, WHO WILL DO MOST OF THE ENUMERATION, ARE BEING CALLED BACK FROM SUMMER VACATIONS TO CANVASS POTENTIAL VOTERS.

4. THERE IS STILL SOME CONFUSION OVER THE EFFECT OF THE CABINET'S DECISIONS ON THE PROPOSED LOCAL BODIES ELECTIONS--WHICH ZIA PROMISED WOULD BE HELD BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. WHILE SOME SAY THE CABINET'S CALL FOR FRESH ROLLS APPLIES TO BOTH THE LOCAL POLLS AND THE GENERAL ELECTION, OFFICIALS AT THE ELECTPSN COMMISSION, AS OF JULY 19, TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE NEW ROLLS FOR LOCAL BODIES ELECTIONS.  
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5. COMMENV: ALTHOUGH REPEATEDLY PROMISED, THE CABINET'S DECISIONS ARE THE FIRST CONCRETE SIGNS IN MANY MONTHS THAT GENERAL ZIA IS STILL COMMITTED TO HOLDING A GENERAL ELECTION. THERE IS STILL NO HINT OF AN ELECTION DATE--MOST AGREE THAT THE ENUMERATION IS AN 8-10 MONTH PROCESS. THE SIGNS BEAR WATCHING, AS ZIA CAN NOW BEGIN TO SHOW POSITIVE ACTION ON ELECTIONS TO THOSE POLITICIANS HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IN HIS GOVERNMENT (REF B), WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY STRENGTHENING HIS CREDIBILITY AMONG THOSE STILL IN DOUBT ABOUT HIS COMMITMENT TO AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT. CABINET MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY THE POLITICIANS, WILL ALSO NO DOUBT BEGIN TO CLAIM CREDIT FOR HASTENING A RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE.  
HUMMEL

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, ELECTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW CABINET MOVES ON ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, PK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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